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LETHBRIDGE, ALTA.

IN A NUTSHELL

3rd edition, revised Sept. '09
Compiled and Issued by the
Lethbridge Board of Trade

Anticipating your Questions
We Answer them

LETHBRIDGE BOARD OF TRADE

Office in the Publicity Building on
the Square.

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CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

(An Incorporated City.)

It is the headquarters of the District Court and the District Judge resides here. Supreme Court sittings are held here regularly.

It is the seat of the Dominion Lands Office for the District along the Crow's Nest railway.

It is the headquarters of a post of the Royal North West Mounted Police.

It is the chief customs post of Southern Alberta.

LETHBRIDGE AS A RAILWAY CENTRE

It is a divisional point on the Crow's Nest line of the C. P. R. This line runs through to the Pacific coast. The Soo-Spokane service of the C. P. R. also goes over this road.

It is a divisional point and terminal of the Alberta Railway which has a main line to Shelby, Montana, and all Great Northern connections and a branch line to Cardston, touching the rich wheat growing towns of Raymond, Magrath, Stirling, Spring Coulee, Cardston, New Dayton and Warner.

There are a number of projected lines of railroad with Lethbridge as their destination.

The C. P. R. is now building a line from Weyburn in Saskatchewan to Lethbridge.

The Canadian Northern has a charter for a road from a point on its Regina-Brandon line to Lethbridge.

The Grand Trunk Pacific has a charter for a branch from Calgary to the American boundary, through Lethbridge.

J. J. Hill's proposed Transcontinental will come to Lethbridge.

The C. P. R. are building a line from the west end of the big bridge, north to Calgary, 40 miles of which extending to Carmangay will be in operation this fall.

This road will bring the famous Little Bow District into direct connection with the city.

CLIMATE

The climate of the Lethbridge district is ideal.

There is very little winter.

There are frequent snowfalls but the snow does not stay long on the ground and consequently there is very rarely any sleighing.

HAS LETHBRIDGE A MARKET?

Indeed it has, and it is so large that its own farmers cannot supply it.

Here is a conservative estimate of the produce imported into Lethbridge, not from other points in Alberta, but from outside the province altogether:

Eggs—3,000 cases.

Cheese—70,000 pounds.

Ham, Bacon and Dried Meats—400,000 pounds.

Lard—190,000 pounds.

Butter—35,000 pounds.

Upon these imports the estimated value is \$175,000.

Fruit is largely imported every year, though if people would grow fruits in the district they could supply the demand. Fruits of all kinds have been grown here with the greatest success, and fruit growing is beyond the experimental stage.

The Lethbridge market is growing larger every day. Population is advancing in the city and district, and the farmer and wholesaler will have an increasing market to cater to each year.

AN INDUSTRIAL CENTRE

Lethbridge is the industrial centre of Southern Alberta.

Apart from the numerous mines in the city and territory adjoining it has—

A woollen mill, the only one in Western Canada.

Three brick yards with an output of 6,250,000 bricks yearly.

One of the largest and best breweries in Western Canada, in which \$200,000 are invested.

An Iron Works.

Two flour mills with a daily capacity of 625 barrels.

2 cigar factories.

A large steam laundry.

A number of small industries.

A large planing mill and sash and door factory.

LOTS OF NEW BUILDINGS

For the first nine months of 1909 permits totalled \$1,007,000.

The climate is such here that building goes on all winter with practically no interruption and plans are now under way which will bring the 1909 total up to \$1,250,000.

To this should be added the building at No. 6 shaft of a new tipple and a large number of buildings at a cost of \$500,000, and the new district jail being built at a cost of \$100,000, all just outside the city limits.

The city is building a new electric power station from which they will be enabled to supply electric power at a very low rate and have added a large water tower to the water system thereby affording good fire protection.

In 1908 \$150,000 was spent on grading streets and cement sidewalks and this year \$112,000 is being spent on the streets and sidewalks, including sewer and water extensions.

FIGURES TALK

The total customs duties collected here in 1908 were \$119,256; for the first eight months of 1909 they are \$130,511.

The express and freight handled is double what it was in 1908.

Lethbridge's population in 1906 according to the Government census was 2,313. In November 1908 a police census showed the population to be over 7,000 and today it is over 10,000.

ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD

The C. P. R. has just finished building a bridge across the river here that ranks as one of the wonders of the world. It is a mile and forty feet long and three hundred and seven feet high and cost some \$1,500,000. In addition to this gigantic undertaking the C. P. R. is spending some \$3,000,000, in making a direct line from Lethbridge to Macleod, in building the new line to Carmangay and enlarging the terminals at Lethbridge to accommodate the greatly increased traffic.

WINTER WEATHER

Some idea of winter weather in this district will be gathered from the following figures of the average high and low temperatures for winter months of 1908.

	Maximum	Minimum
January	53	— 4
February	60.8	— 7.9
March	60	—13
December	48.0	— 9.1

TAX, WATER AND LIGHT RATE

The total assessment of the City of Lethbridge for 1909 is \$7,813,209, and the taxable assessment is \$5,022,545.

In 1908 the taxable assessment was \$3,664,608.

For 1909 the tax rate is as follows: School, 6 mills; municipal, 7 mills; debenture, 3 mills. Total 16 mills.

Water is charged for according to the number of taps and for a modern house costs about \$25 per year.

Electric light is sold by the meter at 14 cents per kilowatt with a ten per cent. discount for prompt payment.

A FRUIT RAISING DISTRICT

The finest strawberries in Western Canada are produced in Lethbridge. All kinds of fruit can be raised without the least difficulty. The day is close at hand when Lethbridge will be the greatest fruit producing district on the prairies.

This year one man had seven acres of strawberries and two acres of raspberries and found a ready local sale for them all at profitable prices.

LETHBRIDGE HAS

8 hotels.

1 daily newspaper.

2 weekly newspapers.

Three lines of railroad.

1 fortnightly labor paper.

10 miles of graded streets.

A population of over 10,000.

9½ miles of cement sidewalk.

School buildings valued at \$175,000.00.

The best waterworks and sewerage systems in Alberta.

10 banks representing a paid-up capital and rest of \$86,000,000.

The finest Fair Grounds in the Province and the best Fall Fair.

Good athletic grounds with all kinds of athletic associations.

A modern electric light and power system owned by the city.

A \$30,000.00 fire hall with full equipment of steamer, chemical and hose.

Long distance telephone and a local automatic telephone system with over 400 subscribers.

LETHBRIDGE HAS

Two theatres.

Seven churches.

15 wholesale houses.

A large opera house.

A live Board of Trade.

An up-to-date fire brigade.

A park in the heart of the city.

The biggest bridge in the world.

A large number of wholesale agencies.

A new Court House costing \$100,000.00.

A new District Jail costing \$100,000.00.

The best equipped and conducted general hospital in Alberta,
to which a \$60,000.00 addition is now being built.

An Experimental Farm on a large scale owned and conducted
by the Department of Agriculture of the Dominion of
Canada.

A High School, four Public Schools and a Kindergarten, a
Roman Catholic Separate School and a Convent.

A BIG PAY ROLL

The city has the advantage of having a large pay roll every month and this pay roll is constantly increasing, the Royal Collieries and the Diamond mine will probably more than double before the year is out and all other industries are steadily increasing their pay roll, an increase of 100 per cent. having been made in some cases this year.

The August pay roll touched \$200,000 for the month of which the following were some of the principal items:

Galt Mines	\$40,000	Brewery	4,000
Diamond Mines	7,000	Taylor Mill	1,000
Royal Collieries	10,000	Oliver Manf. Co.	3,000
Ashcroft Mine	2,500	City of Lethbridge....	25,000
Barnes Mine	2,000	Iron Works	2,000
Steam Laundry	1,200	Ellison Mills	1,500
C. P. R.	48,000	A. R. & I. Railway...	10,000
Brick & Terra Cotta..	2,500	The Herald	1,800

THE RAINFALL 1908

The precipitation in inches by months was:

January	0.27
February	0.75
March	1.10
April	0.67
May	2.78
June	7.64
July	0.41
August	0.89
September	0.73
October	1.16
November	0.02
December	0.25

16.67

For the previous five years
the record has been:

1902	27.91
1903	14.83
1904	11.40
1905	13.78
1906	22.48
1907	15.50

Average for past 7 years 17.80
Altitude 2984 ft.

FACTS ABOUT FARMING

Seeding of spring wheat begins the last week in March and fall wheat about August 1.

Fall wheat is harvested the last week in July and spring grain first week in August.

The farming season begins early in March though it is not unusual to work the land in January and February. Ploughing is often carried on up to the first of December.

The vegetables produced in this district in quality and quantity are equal to any in the world. A crop of 600 bushels of potatoes to the acre is not uncommon.

At the Seed Fair for the Province of Alberta in 1908 the Lethbridge district made a clean sweep. All the first prizes went to farmers living within a radius of forty miles of Lethbridge. Of 57 prizes awarded altogether, the Lethbridge district won 38.

SUGAR BEETS

This is one of the most productive sugar beet raising districts in America. At Raymond a few miles south of Lethbridge over

a million dollars have been invested in this industry. At that town there is one of the largest sugar beet factories in America. The 1908 production was sold long before the factory commenced handling the 1909 crop. The output of the factory is in the neighborhood of five million pounds of sugar yearly.

GRAIN GROWING

The Government Department of Agriculture has just issued its Crop Bulletin No. 4, and from it the following facts are gleaned.

Crop Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3 comprise the district called Sunny Southern Alberta of which Lethbridge is the centre.

The yield from the different grains from these three districts for the year 1908 was as follows:

	No. Acres.	Bushels	Av. per Acre.
Spring Wheat	106,588	2,108,067	19.80
Winter Wheat (Alberta Red)	49,072	1,465,820	29.90
Oats	47,729	1,662,733	34.82
Barley	3,973	96,685	24.57

EARLY SEEDING AND RAPID GROWTH

It has ever been the boast of the Lethbridge district that the commencement of spring seeding was always two to four weeks ahead of other parts of the West. While the spring of 1909 was later all over the West than usual, Lethbridge wheat was up when other districts were being seeded.

On May 16th, 1908, rye was 28 inches high and wheat 22 inches high on many farms in this district.

The harvesting of fall wheat begins in July.

BUSHELS TO THE ACRE

In the harvest of 1908 many farms in this district produced as high as 60 bushels of wheat, and oats have been known to go as high as 115 bushels to the acre.

400,000 bushels of wheat was handled at Lethbridge station last year.

STOCK RAISING

Cattle and sheep feed in thousands on the praries all winter with no shelter owing to the mild weather.

Lethbridge is the greatest stock raising district in Canada, thousands of horses, cattle and sheep being shipped from here each year.

The annual wool clip of the district is 500,000 pounds.

COAL MINING

At Lethbridge is the Galt coal mine (The A. R. & I.), the greatest domestic coal mine in Western Canada. Last year it mined 256,000 tons and at present the company is spending some \$500,000 in building a new tipple and opening a new shaft which will greatly increase the output.

Close to the City are the Royal Collieries, the Diamond Mine and the Pioneer mine. The two former have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in development work and will each ship close to 1,000 tons of coal per day this winter.

Coal sells at \$4.25 per ton delivered in the cellar at Lethbridge or the farmer can buy it for \$3.25 at the mine.

There are also a number of small mines scattered through the district where farmers can purchase coal for \$2.50 a ton.

Slack coal suitable for industrial purposes is sold at 50 cents per ton.

PRICE OF PRODUCE

The following tables gives a sample of the prices farmers get for produce at Lethbridge: Lethbridge, Sept. 20, '09.

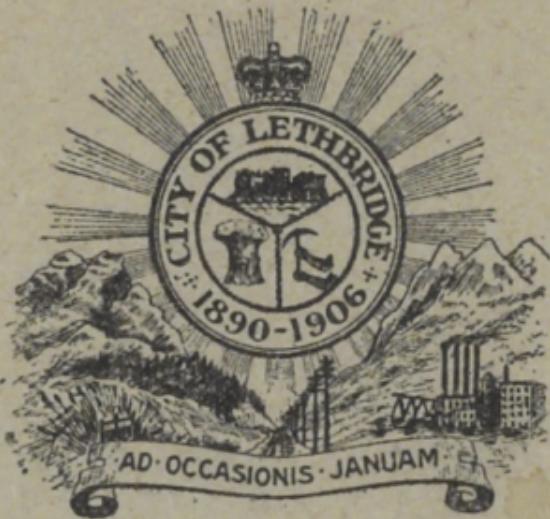
1 Northern . .83	HOGS—	Potatoes, cwt. 1.10
2 Northern . .80	Live per cwt. 8.00	Onions, lb. .. .03½
3 Northern . .77	Dressed, cwt. 10.50	FEED—
1 Alta. Red.. .81	SHEEP—	HAY—
2 Alta. Red.. .78	Live, cwt. .. 4.50	Prairie 10.00
3 Alta. Red.. .75	Dressed, cwt. 10.50	Blue Joint ..13.50
Oats, per cwt. .70	BUTTER AND	HIDES—
Barley25	EGGS—	Dry14
Flax 1.00	Dairy butter .30	Cured08¾
CATTLE—	Creamery35	REN. TALLOW—
Steers, per lb. .03½	Eggs, doz. .. .40	No. 1, lb.04½
Cows, per lb. .02¾	VEGETABLES—	No. 2, lb.03½

Cheap fuel and a big market at its very doors guarantees a great industrial future for Lethbridge.

Lethbridge, is the centre of the greatest Winter Wheat District of America.

In addition to the market of the Prairie Provinces, Lethbridge is the main feeder for the rich mining Province of British Columbia.

With the magnificent crops on the surface, the unlimited Coal underneath, the bright Sunny Southern Alberta sunshine overhead, there is certainly a great future in store for Lethbridge City and District.



The Lethbridge Daily Herald Job Department.